

their own on-going training programmes the WHO/UNICEF 'Breastfeeding Counselling: A training course', as it is particularly designed for teaching practical and counselling skills, and for training trainers. I was fortunate that I was involved in the development of this course when I worked with WHO, and subsequently in its update and revision. Every effort is made to ensure that all the courses for healthcare workers are consistent in what they teach, to achieve common understanding and practices of people trained at different levels.

Evidence is now available that with a combination of baby-friendly hospital practices, and coordinated skilled follow-up support from health services and community based workers, exclusive breastfeeding rates can increase substantially. For me it is a privilege to be able to work with an organisation which can contribute meaningfully to such an exciting development.

– Dr Felicity Savage, WABA Chairperson



Felicity Savage with Raj Anand.

How much time friends like Felix, Helen Armstrong, Margaret Kyenkya and others gave to go all over the world to train trainers for counselling mothers for successful breastfeeding. I myself learned so much going along with them.

– Dr Raj Anand, IAC Co-chair

As of November 2015, over 140 healthcare professionals in 26 countries have been trained.

The results have been significant, for example follow up of the Regional BAP Course of 2008 was seen in several Asian countries: Course director and WABA Chair, Dr Felicity Savage, conducted follow-up national trainings in Thailand, the Philippines, and India. Designed to suit national needs, leadership came from national officials previously trained in the WABA BAP course. Potential for promotion of baby-friendly practices and hospital policies were high. Meanwhile specific impacts in Malaysia included: after BAP Courses of 2007 and 2008, Malaysia gained 3 IBCLCs; one being a staff of the WABA secretariat. The head of the Malaysian National Lactation Centre, a senior gynaecologist, developed a new protocol for Caesarian Sections, enabling babies to be immediately put 'skin-to-skin' with their mothers, that facilitates breastfeeding.